

II. CLAIM AMENDMENTS

1-26. (Cancelled)

27. (New) A server for transmitting a data signal having a sequence of data units in a predetermined order over a transmission link, the data units being sent in an order determined by their relative importance rather than their predetermined order, in which the data units are intended to be played back at scheduled playback times and are sent in an order determined by their relative importance in providing uninterrupted playback to increase the likelihood of more important of the data units being received before their scheduled playback times.

28. (New) A server according to claim 27 in which the data units represent a base layer and at least one enhancement layer.

29. (New) A server according to claim 28 comprising means to calculate the pre-calculated playback times.

30. (New) A server according to claim 27 in which the data signal is scalable.

31. (New) A server according to claim 30 in which the signal is scalable in a domain selected from a group consisting of the temporal, the spatial, the spectral and the SNR domains.

32. (New) A server according to claim 27 which comprises an editor for providing the data signal.

33. (New) A server according to claim 27 in which the data signal represents a sequence of pictures to produce a moving image.

34. (New) A server according to claim 33 in which the data signal represents a video sequence.

35. (New) A server according to claim 27 in which the data signal comprises multimedia data.

36. (New) A server according to claim 27 which comprises re-ordering means to order the data units into the order determined by their relative importance.

37. (New) A server according to claim 27 which comprises transmitting means to transmit the re-ordered data units.

38. (New) A data transmission system for transmitting a data signal having a sequence of data units in a predetermined order over a transmission link between a data source and a data sink, the system comprising re-ordering means to order the data units into an order determined by their relative importance rather than their predetermined order and transmitting means to transmit the re-ordered data units,

the re-ordering means being arranged to re-order the data units according to pre-calculated scheduled playback times so that those data units that are necessary to provide uninterrupted playback are intended to be received before their pre-calculated scheduled playback times.

39. (New) A transmission system according to claim 38 in which the data units each comprise a base layer and at least one enhancement layer and, when reordered, the base layer of a particular data unit has a greater safety time than an enhancement layer of the particular data unit.

40. (New) A transmission system according to claim 38 in which the source is a server.

41. (New) A transmission system according to claim 38 in which the source is an editor.

42. (New) A transmission system according to claim 38 in which the sink is a client.

43. (New) A transmission system according to claim 38 in which the sink is a mobile terminal.

44. (New) A transmission system according to claim 38 in which the sink is a mobile telephone.

45. (New) A transmission system according to claim 38 in which means are provided to check the progress of transmission and to change the order being used to one better suited to available bandwidth.

46. (New) A method of transmitting a data signal having a sequence of data units in a predetermined order over a transmission link between a data source and a data sink, the method comprising the steps of:

calculating scheduled playback times for the data units and re-ordering the data units into an order determined by their relative importance rather than their predetermined order so that those data units that are necessary to provide uninterrupted playback are intended to be received before their pre-calculated scheduled playback times transmitting the re-ordered data units.

47. (New) A method according to claim 46 in which the data units are returned to their original sequence once they have been transmitted over the transmission link.

48. (New) A method according to claim 46 in which the progress of transmission is checked and the order being used is changed to one better suited to available bandwidth.

49. (New) A computer program product stored on a computer usable medium comprising:

computer readable program means for causing transmission of a data signal having a sequence of data units in a predetermined order over a transmission link between a data source and a data sink; and

computer readable program means to re-order the data units according to pre-calculated scheduled playback times so that those data units that are necessary to provide uninterrupted playback are intended to be received before their pre-calculated scheduled playback times.

50. (New) A computer program product according to claim 49 comprising a server.

51. (New) A computer program product according to claim 49 comprising an editor for providing a scalable data signal.

52. (New) A computer program product according to claim 49 comprising re-ordering means for providing the of each of the data units with different safety times.

53. (New) A data signal having a sequence of data units for transmission over a transmission link between a data source and a data sink, the data units being intended to be played back at pre-calculated scheduled playback times and being sent in an order determined by their relative importance so that those data units that are necessary to provide uninterrupted playback are intended to be received before their pre-calculated scheduled playback times.

54. (New) A re-ordering device for re-ordering a data signal for transmission over a transmission link, between a data source and a data sink, the data signal having a sequence of data units in a predetermined order, the data units being intended to be played back at scheduled playback times, the re-ordering device being arranged to re-order the data units according to pre-calculated scheduled playback times into an order determined by their relative importance rather than their predetermined order so that those data units that are necessary to provide uninterrupted playback are intended to be received before their pre-calculated scheduled playback times.